

What's NEW

A bi-weekly newsletter for Greenfield Community College staff and faculty

March 19, 1990

The President's Corner

At last, we're hearing some sensible talk about public higher education. Paul Tsongas is starting to sound like a Chairman of the state Board of Regents of Higher Education with his recent comments that Yale University spends more on its "10,000 lovely, pampered students than the Massachusetts taxpayer is willing to put in for 180,000 (students) of its own."

He added that the taxpayer-supported contribution to the state's colleges and universities has dropped from nearly 65 percent in fiscal 1985 to 53.5 percent in fiscal 1989, and will continue to drop even further this year. Tsongas noted that Massachusetts is the only state in the nation where the taxpayer-contributed dollars to public higher education are less now than two years ago. He also cited Stan Rosenberg's study, which shows that administrative spending per student in Massachusetts is well below the national average.

We need this kind of outspoken leadership in public higher education. I frankly am tired of being placed on the defensive, of having to justify our every move to corporate leaders who cannot keep even their own companies afloat. I am tired of being given phony choices between closing colleges or closing access to students; between cutting staff or accepting several years of no salary increases and reduced benefits for College employees; between agreeing to further budget cuts or supporting a new round of tuition and fee increases that will make Massachusetts community colleges the most expensive in the nation.

I am sick of having to respond to every mindless or deliberately mis-

leading newspaper article or talk-show comments about how many support staff we have, how many positions we have *really* lost over the last two years, how much money you and I are paid (always too much, is the innuendo), or how many employees are "wasting" taxpayer dollars on tuition waivers for themselves or, worse yet, their children.

I am angry. Why? Because while we in Massachusetts higher education are engaging in this destructive, pointless debate, Rome is burning. Our competitiveness is being lost to more future-oriented states like North Carolina, Florida, Arizona and California that are all investing heavily in public higher education, especially in their community colleges. While we self-destruct, Japan, Germany and the European Community are planning for the future.

While Massachusetts stands mired in a cesspool of political gamesmanship, corporate short-sightedness, and populist ignorance, our education system falls further and further behind in its ability to produce the sophisticated workforce of the future. While the problems of our urban youth, our minority populations, and our economically disadvantaged citizens cry out for meaningful solutions, we fund prisons and vote down school buildings.

After two full years of massive cuts to the educational and human service network of the county, the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce has not yet managed even to raise an official meek whimper of concern. Except for the GCC Foundation, no group of business people in this area has had the courage or the vision to demand that our legislators find a solution to the current mess.

Cont. on next page

Staff News

WELCOME...

To **Lindy Whiton**, who is back at GCC, after having directed the Literacy Project for four years. Call her Doctor Whiton now, as she recently received her doctorate from UMass, and she has returned to GCC to coordinate a program that will train interns to work in the field of literacy. The two-year program is being run by the Division of Continuing Education, and is funded by the federal Department of Education. This spring, Lindy hopes to train a group of 15 students to work in different aspects of the problem of literacy in Franklin and Hampshire counties. Lindy, whose office is S203, will be on campus five mornings a week.

THANK YOU...

From **B.J. Roche** to **Marty Markwell**, **Charlie Carter**, **Don Brown**, **Larry Dean**, **Jane Abbott**, **Tom Boisvert**, **Bob Schilling**, **Dennis Koonz**, **Arden Billings**, and **Lynne Morris** for all the help in rewriting, designing, and producing the 1990-91 catalogue on the MacIntosh this January. We hope to have super looking catalogue this spring, due in large part to everyone's efforts.

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Greenfield Community College
Development Office*

*B.J. Roche, editor
Arden Billings, assistant to the
editor*

Douglas Ross, student assistant

Deadline for next issue:

April 3

--Staff News

Cont. from front page

KUDOS TO...

Dave Johnson, who was promoted in September to 4th degree Tae Kwan Do master. **Dave** was also inducted into the Black Belt Hall of Fame in August, in recognition of his contributions in teaching and competition in the martial arts over the past 15 years. **Dave** and his competition team entered the national circuit this year and have been competing nationwide, regularly finishing in the top three.

Jan Balise, who attended a one-day seminar conducted by Padgett/Thompson. The seminar, held January 9 at the Springfield Marriott provided an intensive business course concentrating on personal and professional excellence and personal development.

Mike Bathory, who has received professional development funding from the GCC Foundation to attend a one-day conference on Time Limited Psychotherapy in September.

Richard Little, who has also received professional development funding from the GCC Foundation to attend the New England Intercollegiate Geology Conference in October.

Anne Wiley, the third recipient of Foundation professional development funds, who will be attending the New England Women Studies Conference in April.

Al Rainford was one of the 45 invited participants at a workshop on Computers in Accounting Education held at the Newark Airport Hilton in February. The event was sponsored by Houghton Mifflin, and is part of a national program designed to improve the teaching of accounting principles at the undergraduate level.

TYPING PROJECTS

Sharin Alpert of Shelburne Falls has just started a a typing/word processing/editing business. If you need help on projects, call her at 625-2951 after 5 or on weekends.

--President's Corner

Cont. from front page

I think that it is time that we in education take the offensive; that instead of acquiescing in the demise of public higher education and apologizing for our existence, we take the high ground; that we collectively - faculty members, support staff, unions, administrators, Trustees and students - say to this Commonwealth that we have had enough.

In the next week, two important events will help us get our message out to the public. On Monday, March 26, our transfer program and our Art and Graphic Design program will be highlighted at The Community College Legislators' Day at the State House in Boston. And on Friday, March 30, a group of area business and human service leaders will gather at the Whale Inn in Goshen to talk about the role of both Berkshire and Greenfield community colleges in western Massachusetts.

We can and must tell the public, especially the business community, and our legislators and especially those who would be governor, that we in public higher education know more and care more about the future of this state and its youth than they do.

It is time, as Paul Tsongas has said, to stop bashing our colleges and get on with the business of moving Massachusetts into the next century.

This is my plea as I enter my third year as your president.

—Kay Sloan

Single Parent Support Group

The Single Parent Support Group is off and running, with 18 members and weekly meetings on Fridays at noon in North 220. A potluck is planned for Sunday, March 25 1-5 p.m. in the Business FSM. Contact Kathy Meyer for info.

John Palmer
COACH OF THE YEAR
of
New England Junior Colleges

Way to go, John!!!

Calendar

MARCH 21: Lecture--Eating on the Run, Good Nutrition for Busy People, a workshop with Diane Rutherford, RD, on how to put good nutrition into quick meals. 12 noon, C 129.

MARCH 25: Seminar on Transportation-Moving Toward a Sustainable Transportation System. 1-5 p.m., GCC. For info, contact Division of Continuing Ed.

MARCH 25: Potluck Supper, Single Parents Support Group. 1-5 p.m., Business FSM. See Kathy Meyer for info.

MARCH 26: Legislators Day, State house, Boston: transfer and Art and Graphic Design Program to be highlighted.

MARCH 28: Lecture: Nutrition and Its Relationship to Hypertension, 12 noon, C129.

MARCH 28: Readings: NUYORICAN Poets: The poetry of Puerto Ricans who have grown up on the U.S. mainland, 12 noon, South Gallery.

MARCH 30: Board of Regents Listening Day, Whale Inn, Goshen. Community leaders gather with reps of Greenfield and Berkshire community colleges to discuss concerns.

APRIL 5: Lecture: representatives from the School for International Training in Brattleboro will speak on potential exchange programs and opps. for GCC students. 12 noon, S211. For info, contact Jane Lerner.

APRIL 5: WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD Lecture: Ellen S. Gannett will speak on "The Complexity of Parenting." Sponsored by the Early Childhood Education Department and the Student Senate. 12:30, Lecture Hall.

APRIL 12: Annual Student Art Exhibition Opening Reception. Live music and refreshments. Sponsored by the Art Department and the Student Senate 7 p.m., South Gallery.

APRIL 18: Health Matters Day, GCC lobby.

APRIL 18: Racism Workshop--see Barbara McColgan for info.

COMING UP: Cole! in the new mini-theater! Watch for details